

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 – 18 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, and 15 have been amended. New claims 19 and 20 have been added. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed. Applicants, therefore submit that the amendments do not add new matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §102

In the August 23, 2005 Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4 – 8, 10 – 14 and 16 - 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0022369 to Vitikainen et al. (hereinafter Vitikainen).

Applicants have amended the claims to clearly distinguish the claimed invention from Vitikainen. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 4 – 8, 10 – 14 and 16 - 18 are not anticipated by Vitikainen. Claim 1 as amended, includes the following limitations.

A method comprising:
 receiving, at a central site, a call identification information and a
corresponding response instruction, from a remote user;
 receiving a call;
 automatically identifying the call using input prompted from the caller;
and
 responding to the call in accordance with the corresponding response
instruction.

(Amended claim 1) (Emphasis added)

In contrast Vitikainen does not include such limitation. In Vitikainen, as cited by the Examiner, personal messages are designated for predefined calling subscriber terminals. Vitikainen mentions MSISDN numbers or IP addresses used as identifiers of

the subscriber terminals. Vitikainen does not disclose that input prompted from the caller be used to identify the call.

For this reason, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Vitikainen. Given that claims 2, 4 – 8, 10 – 14 and 16 – 18 include such limitation, applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 4 – 8, 10 – 14 and 16 – 18 are, likewise, not anticipated by Vitikainen.

In regard to claim 6, the Examiner has cited Vitikainen at paragraph 17. A thorough reading of this paragraph and paragraphs 42 – 48 reveals that an embodiment of the invention of Vitikainen allows the caller to be provided with a menu of options that include being connected to a predetermined number. The caller, upon receiving this menu, makes a selection that indicates to the telecommunications system how he (the caller) would like to proceed with the call attempt (see Vitikainen, paragraph 43).

In contrast, an embodiment of the invention, as claimed for example in claim 6, forwards the call to an alternative number of the remote user without being directed to by the caller, and without the consent or knowledge of the caller. While the concepts are similar the implementation and resulting telecommunication is vastly different. As claimed in claim 6, the invention allows calls made by specific callers to be forwarded to an alternative number of the remote user. This maintains the remote user's privacy in regard to activity, location, etc. while proceeding with a call from the specific caller. Such is not disclosed by Vitikainen.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §103

In the August 23, 2005 Office Action, Claims 3, 9, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vitikainen in view of European Patent Application No. 0 957 622 Cannon et al. (hereinafter Cannon).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 9, and 15 are not rendered obvious by Vitikainen in view of Cannon due to their dependence on claims 1, 7, and 13, respectively. Cannon, like Vitikainen, does not disclose the limitation of using input prompted from the caller to automatically identify the call. Moreover, applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 6, and 9 as originally filed were not rendered obvious by the combination of Vitikainen and Cannon. Applicants respectfully submit that Cannon does not disclose use of the caller's name for identifying the call. As cited by the Examiner, Cannon discloses the following.

“A user can pre-select an outgoing greeting message to be used for a particular caller by recording a plurality of outgoing greeting messages and by entering call related information such as at least a portion of a telephone number and/or at least a portion of a household name via keypad...”

(Cannon, col. 4, lines 26 – 31) (Emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that the “household name” as disclosed in Cannon is not the name of the caller. This term is misleading, but a thorough review of Cannon will reveal that this term, as used by Cannon refers to a name associated with a particular telephone. This could be, for example, the name of the person responsible for paying for the telephone service or the name of the person who resides or conducts business where the phone is located. This is made clear at paragraph 16 in which “household name” is given as an example of “Caller ID” information with telephone number also given as

such an example. Additionally, this is made clear by the fact that Cannon does not disclose how “household name” would correspond to a particular caller as opposed to anyone using a particular phone associated with a particular “household name”.

Moreover, Cannon does not suggest that such information is prompted from the user. In fact, Cannon discloses that “the household name of the calling party is transmitted to the TAD 11, e.g., between the first and second rings of an incoming call from the calling party,...” (Cannon, col 3, paragraph 16). This makes clear that Cannon does not know the “name of the caller” as claimed in claims 3, 9, and 15, but only a “household name” corresponding to a particular phone.

However, to clarify this distinction, applicants have amended the claims to clearly distinguish the claimed invention from what is disclosed in Cannon. Claim 3, as amended includes the following limitations.

The method of claim 1, wherein in the call identification information is a name of the caller, and automatically identifying the call includes receiving as the input from the caller the name of the caller as speech input.

(Amended claim 3) (Emphasis added)

In contrast, neither Vitikainen nor Cannon alone or in combination disclose this limitation. As discussed above, Cannon clearly states that the “household name” may be used between rings of an incoming call (before the caller has the ability to provide input). Further, Cannon does not disclose receiving speech input from the caller of any type for any purpose.

For these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 9, and 15 are not anticipated, nor rendered obvious by Vitikainen or Cannon, alone or in combination.

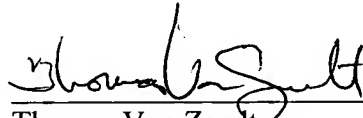
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any further questions or comments concerning the amendments made herein, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 408-849-3274.

Respectfully submitted,

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